reduce the poverty in Himachal Pradesh since the State is very backward and consists much of hilly areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL. PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir. The survey on consumer expenditure referred to in answer to Starred Question No. 73 on 02.12.1999, covers the period July, 1999 to June, 2000 and the field work of the survey is under progress.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

Method adopted for GDP estimates

†127. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the method adopted to collect data for making estimates regarding Gross Domestic Product of the country has become erroneous;

(b) if not, what is the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government have taken any concrete action to make this method foolproof; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) are compiled using basic data available from different sources. The sources of data include agricultural output based on the area statistics, productivity and prices provided by the State government, industrial and services statistics from Annual Survey of Industries and Enterprise Surveys, conducted specifically to collect these data, annual reports and budget documents of public sector undertakings and government departments. The data collection methods have remained more or less unchanged. Over the years deficiencies have crept in. Moreover, data about the same head collected from different sources have come to show considerable discrepancies.

(c) and (d) The Government has established a National Stastistical Commission on 19.1.2000 headed by Dr. C. Rangarajan to critically examine the deficiencies of the present statistical system with a view to recommending measures for a systematic revamping of the system, so as to improve the availability and quality of basic statistics. There is also a proposal for modernising the Indian Statistical System with possible external assistance.

Increase in Poverty in Rural Areas

†128. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the poverty has been increased in the rural regions of the country more than 3.42 per cent during the first seven years of the current decade;

(b) if not, what are the Government's estimates in this regard; and

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.